

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 3, after line 26 and before the “Description of the Invention”, please add the following paragraph:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 depicts relaxivity values ( $R_1$  obs) observed over time for suspensions of Gd-1 particles alone (relaxometrically silent species), with lipase or with esterase.

Figure 2 depicts relaxivity values observed over time when Gd-1 is added to a macrophage lysate containing an esterase.

Figure 3 depicts uptake (through phagocytosis) of Gd-1 particles over time by U937 monocytes.

Figure 4 depicts over-time relaxivity ( $R_1$  obs) in a cytosol extract of U937 monocytes. The amount of phagocytosed Gd(III) is depicted for comparison.

Figure 5 depicts the results of experiment 4, wherein the esterase activity in U937 monocytes is measured and Gd-1 is used as probe.

Figure 6 depicts a cellular labeling procedure of the invention.

Figure 7 depicts an enzymatic degradation of Gd-1 (relaxometrically silent species) to a paramagnetic chelate endowed with a significant relaxivity (relaxometrically active species).